

AMENDMENTS

In the Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An electret filter medium, comprising a lactic acid polymer having a molar ratio of an L-lactic acid ~~monomer unit~~ unit to a D-lactic acid ~~monomer unit~~ unit in the range from 100:0 to 85:15 and a content of lactide of at most 15% based on the weight of the medium, wherein the electret filter medium uses only an L-lactic acid unit, a D-lactic acid unit, or both, as polymerization materials.

2. (Currently Amended) The electret filter medium according to Claim 1, wherein the medium consists essentially of the lactic acid polymer and produces an endotherm of at least 0.5 J/g accompanied with crystal fusion after charging treatment.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The electret filter medium according to Claim 1, consisting essentially of the lactic acid polymer and having a surface charge density after charging treatment of at least $1.2 \times 10^{-9} / \text{cm}^2$.

5. (Currently Amended) The electret filter medium according to Claim 1, consisting essentially of the lactic acid polymer and ~~further comprising a nucleating agent, a content of nucleating agent being 0.01 to 0.3 parts by weight of a nucleating agent~~ further comprising a nucleating agent, a content of nucleating agent being 0.01 to 0.3 parts by weight of a nucleating agent based on 100 parts by weight of the lactic acid polymer.

6. (Currently Amended) The electret filter medium according to Claim 1, made by ~~[[the]]~~ a process comprising ~~the steps of:~~

obtaining a mixture comprising an L-lactide monomer, a D-lactide monomer, or a combination of both, a molar ratio of an L-lactic acid unit to a D-lactic acid unit being in the range from 100:0 to 85:15;

heating the mixture under reduced pressure so that ring-opening polymerization is carried out;

performing a purification by a recrystallization method to obtain a lactic acid polymer of a content of lactide of at most 15% based on the weight of the medium;

applying a direct current corona electric field to a nonwoven fabric while heating ~~[[it]]~~ the nonwoven fabric to a temperature of 60°C to 140°C, wherein the nonwoven fabric comprises fibers mainly composed of ~~[[a]]~~ the lactic acid polymer; and

~~[[then]]~~ cooling the nonwoven fabric to a temperature of 40°C or lower while applying the electric field to the nonwoven fabric.

7. (Currently Amended) An electret filter medium, comprising a lactic acid polymer having a molar ratio of an L-lactic acid ~~monomer unit~~ unit to a D-lactic acid ~~monomer unit~~ unit in the range from 0:100 to 15:85 and a content of lactide of at most 15% based on the weight of the medium,

wherein the electret filter medium uses only an L-lactic acid unit, a D-lactic acid unit, or both, as polymerization materials..

8. (Currently Amended) The electret filter medium according to Claim 7, wherein the medium consists essentially of the lactic acid polymer and produces an endotherm of at least 0.5 J/g accompanied with crystal fusion after charging treatment.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The electret filter medium according to Claim 7, consisting essentially of the lactic acid polymer and having a surface charge density after charging treatment of at least $1.2 \times 10^{-9} / \text{cm}^2$.

11. (Currently Amended) The electret filter medium according to Claim 7, consisting essentially of the lactic acid polymer and ~~further comprising a nucleating agent, a content of nucleating agent being~~ 0.01 to 0.3 parts by weight of a nucleating agent based on 100 parts by weight of the lactic acid polymer.

12. (Currently Amended) The electret filter medium according to Claim 7, made by [[the]]
a process comprising ~~the steps of~~:

obtaining a mixture comprising an L-lactide monomer, a D-lactide monomer, or a
combination of both, a molar ratio of an L-lactic acid unit to a D-lactic acid unit being in the range
from 0:100 to 15:85;

heating the mixture under reduced pressure so that ring-opening polymerization is carried
out;

performing a purification by a recrystallization method to obtain a lactic acid polymer of a
content of lactide of at most 15% based on the weight of the medium;

applying a direct current corona electric field to a nonwoven fabric while heating the
nonwoven fabric to a temperature of 60°C to 140°C, wherein the nonwoven fabric comprises fibers
mainly composed of [[a]] the lactic acid polymer; and

[[then]] cooling the nonwoven fabric to a temperature of 40°C or lower while applying the
electric field to the nonwoven fabric.

13-14. (Canceled)